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UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Mark Lusk, director of International Programs, (406) 243-2289.

UM FORGES EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH CHILEAN UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana has finalized an exchange agreement with the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile that provides for student, faculty and staff exchanges starting in academic year 2000.

Located in Chile's capital city, Santiago, PUC has about 17,400 students, with roughly 420 international exchange students each year. Its four campuses house different faculties covering more than 20 disciplines, including social sciences, medicine, geography, agriculture, architecture, law, literature and fine arts. Students who participate in an exchange can take classes at any of the campuses.

According to Mark Lusk, assistant vice president for research and international programs at UM, PUC is one of South America's oldest and most prestigious universities.

"We are fortunate to have them as partners," he said. "Apart from the excellence of their academic programs, students will be excited by the fact that it is less than an hour to ski areas in the Andean Mountains."

PUC offers a two-week multidisciplinary course on Chilean culture before the start of the semester's regular courses, and the Institute for Language and Literature there offers Spanish language courses for foreigners. The academic year starts in March, with the first semester ending in July. Second semester runs from the beginning of August until mid-December.

More information about the exchange program is available from UM's International Programs office, (406) 243-2288. Applications for student exchanges to PUC during the 2000 academic year are due Oct. 1, 1999.

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